

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended, where appropriate, to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In addition, Claim 5 has been amended for consistency with Claims 13 and 16; Claims 7 and 10 have been amended to provide a preferred spelling of "co-act"; Claim 15 has been amended to recite "a pick-up device"; Claim 19 has been amended to recite "values" (e.g., like Claim 22); and Claim 23 has been amended to recite "a direction". Claim 9 has been cancelled to avoid duplication with Claim 8.

The rejection of Claims 1, 6, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior art in view of JP 62-179825, is respectfully traversed. The portion of Applicants' specification referred to in the rejection merely sets forth a problem in the prior art. Applicants' invention solves that problem in a manner not taught or suggested by the prior art.

For the convenience of the Office, an English translation of JP 62-179825 is submitted herewith. The Japanese reference is concerned with a method of measuring

metal die clearance, i.e., the clearance between metal dies that approach one another. The Japanese reference is not concerned with deforming a counterforce structure carrying a workpiece and does not measure the deformation of such a structure, as clearly recited in the rejected claims. In the Japanese reference, a pressure-responsive pad is added to a workpiece and is used to measure clearance between metal dies. The Japanese reference is not concerned with the problem addressed by Applicants' invention and does not teach or suggest Applicants' solution to that problem. In fact, it is not apparent how the structures taught by the Japanese reference could, in any reasonable manner, be incorporated into the prior art described in Applicants' specification.

Accordingly, this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this

paper and has not been requested separately, such extension  
is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NHS:lmb

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